

Message Text

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16

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

COME-00 AID-20 INT-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /129 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/NC/C:TETAYLOR:JVH

7/26/73 EXT. 22680

APPROVED BY ARA/NC: MR. LITTLE

EB/OIA: MR. COURTNEY

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R 262114Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, CO

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL MINING COMPANY

REFS: (A) BOGOTA 6083; B) STATE 120591

O'NEILL CALLED ON LITTLE AND TAYLOR JULY 26 TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANS TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION ALLOWING EXPROPRIATION REF. A) HAD DIMINISHED THE OPTIMISM HE FELT THE LAST TIME HE TALKED TO LITTLE (REF. B). NEVERTHELESS HE CONTINUED TO EXPRESS CONFIDENCE THAT A REASONABLE COMPROMISE WOULD ULTIMATELY BE WORKED OUT.

O'NEILL SAID THAT A MAJOR PROBLEM LIES IN MINING MINISTER SILVA'S INSISTENCE THAT ONLY HE CAN NEGOTIATE WITH IMC. O'NEILL SAID THAT SILVA HAD NEITHER THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BACKGROUND NOR THE TIME TO REALLY NEGOTIATE.

SO NO MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE IS POSSIBLE. HE SAID HE PLANS TO RETURN TO BOGOTA NEXT WEEK, PROBABLY MONDAY, TO TAKE UP THE PROBLEM ANEW. HE SAID IMC HAS INDIRECT ACCESS TO PRESIDENT PASTRANA THROUGH ITS LAWYER.

LITTLE SAID THAT WE HOPE THAT BOTH PARTIES WILL REMAIN FLEXIBLE AND THAT A SOLUTION CAN BE WORKED OUT WHICH WILL BE MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY. HE POINTED OUT THAT OUR CONCERNS WERE NOT ONLY TO ENSURE THAT IMC RECEIVES FAIR TREATMENT, BUT ALSO TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE OUR MANY OTHER INTERESTS TIED UP IN U.S. RELATIONS WITH COLOMBIA. LITTLE SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR O'NEILL TO CALL ON AMBASSADOR BOTERO HERE AND TO EXPLAIN THE PROBLEM TO HIM. LITTLE POINTED OUT THAT BOTERO HAS EXPRESSED PRIDE IN COLOMBIA'S RECORD ON EXPROPRIATION AND THAT HE ALSO HAS AN ENTREE TO PRESIDENT PASTRANA. O'NEILL SAID HE WOULD TRY TO MEET WITH BOTERO BEFORE THE END OF THIS WEEK. ROGERS

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